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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/693,177	10/23/2003	Frank Kirschner	GK-ZEI-1071 / 500593.2006	2610
26418 7590 01/22/2007 REED SMITH, LLP ATTN: PATENT RECORDS DEPARTMENT 599 LEXINGTON AVENUE, 29TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10022-7650			EXAMINER PAIK, STEVE S	
			ART UNIT 2876	PAPER NUMBER
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE 3 MONTHS		MAIL DATE 01/22/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/693,177

Applicant(s)

KIRSCHNER ET AL.

Examiner

Steven S. Paik

Art Unit

2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/12/05; 7/16/04; 10/23/03
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 1, 2, 4, and 6 are objected to because of the following informalities: the phrase "can be" does not definitively and precisely recite the claimed invention. It is respectfully suggested to replace it by -- is -- or -- are --. Appropriate correction is required.
3. Claims 2-8 are objected to because of the following informalities: is respectfully suggested to replace "Equipment" in the first line of respective claims with -- The equipment --. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
5. Claims 1-8 recite the limitation "the housing" in line 10. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Claims 2-8 are rejected for the same reason based on their dependent relationship from an independent claim 1.
6. Claims 7 and 8 recite the limitation "the mounting" in lines 2 and 3 respectively. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

Art Unit: 2876

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Baus (US 4,780,599).

Re claim 1, Baus discloses a product presentation equipment (Fig. 1), comprising:

a screen (screen 68);

a computer system (control computer 69 in Fig. 1) connected to the screen (68) in which information on various products (products 52) can be stored and reproduced on the screen by operating appropriate operating devices (such as a reading device 56);

device for accommodating (shelf arrangement 50) at least two different products, for which visualizable information (via screen 68) is stored in the computer;

a switching device (in the form of a tag or label) assigned to each product;

wherein the switching device is automatically activated when a product (52) is taken into use and/or out of the housing (When a product is taken out of the shelf arrangement and brought near the reading device), so that with the activation (reading) of the switching device, information (model designation, technical data, price) from the computer (Each product has a code 54, 54', 54" in the form of a bar code consisting of a plurality of lines of different width, spaced differently apart, etc.. The code corresponds more particularly to the number of the article and to data regarding weight, price, etc.) on the product is automatically reproduced on the screen; and

wherein the product represents an electroacoustic device and the equipment comprises means for the proper testing and/or for the activation of the electroacoustic

Art Unit: 2876

device (It is also possible for several codes to be combined with a specific group of products for example, through the converters 64, in order to obtain a single address signal for a storage unit 30. The latter preferably includes a video disc or laser disc. The disc contains pieces of information associated with the products or group of products, and spot advertisements, customer information, applications, references to pertinent products, and the like. Upon being called up by the reading device 56, these pieces of information are passed on to the output unit 32 and are presented to the customer visually and/or acoustically. Furthermore, the reference does not limit the products to be a specific kind, and a bar code label may be attached to virtually any products.)

Re claim 2, Baus discloses the equipment of as recited in rejected claim 1 stated above, wherein further information on the product taken into use can be invoked by the operation of the operating devices (The reading device 56 reads or detects relevant product information encoded in the barcode.).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baus (US 4, 780,599) in view of Weaver (US2003/0227854A1).

The teachings of Baus have been fully discussed above with the exception of the product being a headphone reproducing sound data source.

Art Unit: 2876

Weaver discloses a product (10) in a package may include CDs, a CD player with a set of headphones to allow a prospective buyer to listen to a CD before purchasing. The packaged product allows a user the convenience of buying a music piece and a headphone for instant usability. Since the CD and headphone are already tested, the user does not have to worry about returning a damaged or a malfunctioning product. At the same time, the packaged product allows manufactures and merchants a chance to increase revenue by selling a product in a bundled package.

Therefore, it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to have included the product package of Weaver into the teachings of Baus for the purpose of increasing revenues and customer satisfaction and reducing inconvenience of a customer.

11. Claims 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baus (US 4,780,599) in view of Tsuchiuchi (US 2003/0093538A1).

Re claims 5 and 6, the teachings of Baus have been fully discussed above with the exception of the screen being a touch screen and a connection to the Internet page of the product supplier being produced by the operating device.

Tsuchiuchi discloses an information display and distribution device that includes a touch screen, a communication mode and switching function. A musical composition sales terminal 32 includes a control section 51, operating section (touch panel 52), a display section (LCD) 53, storage section 54, speaker (or headphone) 55, network adaptor 56, wireless communication section 57, and antenna 58. The device allows a user to selectively purchase a musical

Art Unit: 2876

composition that are stored in the sales terminal or downloaded from an external device via a network (paragraph 0093).

Therefore, it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the touch screen function and the network adaptor of Tsuchiuchi into the teachings of Baus for the purpose of increasing selections of the musical composition and providing the convenience of touch screen to the user of the device.

Re claims 7 and 8, Baus in view of Tsuchiuchi discloses a short-range wireless communication.

Although, the reference does not explicitly indicate the short-range wireless communication includes infrared switch or mechanical switch. As obviously appreciated by an artisan in the field, infrared switch is a type of the short-range wireless communication protocol. A mechanical switch to operate a device between on and off positions is also well-known and conventional. The barcode label in Baus reference provides a similar function. When a product with a barcode is in the proximity of a reading device, it gets read and activates the encoded information to be presented on a display.

In view of above discussion, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a well known and conventional technique in addition to the teachings of Baus for the purposes improving the accuracy of data communication between a product having an indicia and a reading device.

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.


Art Unit: 2876

Garnier (US 5,978,777) discloses an electronic system for selective presentation of a product at a place of sale.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven S. Paik whose telephone number is 571-272-2404. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 5:30a-2:00p (Maxi-Flex*).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on 571-272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Steven S. Paik
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2876

ssp